



AB 1193: Assisted Outpatient Treatment

SUMMARY

Implements assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) statewide unless a county opts out through a board resolution.

BACKGROUND

In 2002, California enacted legislation that allows judges to order assisted outpatient treatment for people with severe mental illness if they have a history of being jailed, hospitalized and are a danger to themselves or others. The law was implemented after Laura Wilcox, a college student working with individuals with mental illnesses, was shot to death in 2001 by an individual with an untreated mental illness.

In order to qualify for AOT, a person must meet the following requirements:

- 18 years of age or older
- Suffering from a serious mental illness, included schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major affective disorders or other severely disabling mental illnesses
- There has been a clinical determination that the person is unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision
- The person has a history of lack of compliance with treatment and as a result the person has either been hospitalized at least twice within the last 36 months or the person's mental illness has resulted in one or more acts of serious and violent behavior towards themselves or another person in the last 48 months.

- The person has been offered an opportunity to participate in a treatment plan but failed to engage in treatment
- The person's condition is substantially deteriorating
- AOT would be the least restrictive placement
- AOT is needed in order to prevent a relapse or deterioration that would likely result in serious harm.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that AOT can lead to reduced hospital readmissions, arrests and incarceration while also reducing service costs.

THIS BILL

This bill requires each county to implement the provisions of Laura's Law unless the county elects not to participate in the program by enacting a resolution passed by the county board of supervisors that states the reasons for option out and any facts or circumstances relied on in making that decision.

This bill would also extend the January 1, 2017, repeal date of the statute until January 1, 2022.

SUPPORT

California Psychiatric Association (sponsor)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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